

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1336

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PARM, PFOR, MPOL
SUBJECT: REVIEW OF NATO WORK ON CHEMICAL WARFARE (CW)

REF: (A) USNATO 0468 (DTG 271725Z JAN 77), (B) 76 USNATO 5450
(DTG 081500Z OCT 76) (NOTAL)

1. ASYG MUMFORD INFORMALLY RAISED WITH DRC REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE US, FRG, NETHERLANDS, UK AND A FRENCH DELEGATION OFFICER ON MARCH 3 THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN OPEN-ENDED GROUP AT 15 ON THE DEFENSIVE ASPECGS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE WAS NEEDED OR DESIRABLE, PURSUANT TO PERMREPS MEETING ON 7 OCTOBER 1976 (REF B). MUMFORD SUGGESTED TWO POSSIBLE REASONS WHY SUCH A GROUP MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE: (A) TO RESPOND TO THE PROPOSALS MADE IN MCM-39-76 AND (B) TO PROVIDE THE FRENCH A FORUM TO PARTICIPATE IN NATO DISCUSSIONS OF DEFENSIVE WARFARE MEASURES, IF EXISTING FORA DID NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATELY FOR FRENCH PARTICIPATION.

2. A CONSENSUS QUICKLY DEVELOPED THAT SUCH A GROUP WAS NOT NEEDED TO RESPOND TO THE MC'S PROPOSALS, SINCE THOSE RELEVANT TO CW DEFENSIVE EFFORTS WOULD BE HANDLED

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BY THE DRC IN THE NORMAL WAY. AS FOR PROVIDING A FORUM FOR THE FRENCH, THE FRENCH REP SAID THAT THE LIMITS OF FRENCH INTERESTS AT THIS POINT WERE A DISCUSSION OF THE THREAT AND THE TECHNICAL MEANS TO DEAL WITH IT. MEMFORD SUGGESTED THAT THOSE MATTERS WERE BEING DISCUSSED THOROUGHLY IN OTHER GROUPS, E.G., THE MC AND AC/225 PANEL VII UNDER THE CNAD, FROM WHICH THE FRENCH WERE NOT EXCLUDED. HE QUESTIONED WHAT MORE COULD USEFULLY BE DISCUSSED BY AN OPEN-ENDED GROUP.

3. THE DISCUSSION ENDED ON A REQUEST BY MUMFORD
FOR THE FRENCH REP TO CONSULT WITH HIS AUTHORITIES
TO DETERMINE WHETHER IN LIGHT OF THIS DISCUSSION THE
FRENCH FELT A NEED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN
OPEN-ENDED GROUP. STRAUSS-KHANE

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